



Chris Nelson, Chairman  
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*South Dakota*

**PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

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March 4, 2026

Alan Kightlinger

██████████  
Sturgis, SD 57785

Dear Mr. Kightlinger:

Thank you for taking the time to share your concerns regarding Black Hills Energy's proposed rate increase. The docket, which was opened on February 19, 2026, is on the PUC website: EL26-003 - In the Matter of the Application of Black Hills Power, Inc. dba Black Hills Energy for Authority to Increase Rates For its Utility Service in South Dakota. The PUC has just begun processing this docket. Black Hills Energy's application will undergo a thorough review, including an analysis of expenses related to and benefiting South Dakota customers. Your input is an important part of the public process.

We understand that affordability is a top concern for customers, especially given recent economic pressures. The PUC takes these matters seriously and is committed to a thorough and transparent review of the proposal. As part of this process, Black Hills Energy is required to provide detailed justification for the increase.

You are correct that Black Hills Energy also operates in Colorado, serving natural gas and electric customers in that state since 2008. Any rate increases the company proposes in Colorado are under the purview of the Colorado Public Utilities Commission.

To help you better understand how the PUC evaluates rate increase requests, I encourage you to review the enclosed Electric Rate Increase Request Info Guide. This guide outlines the steps and considerations involved in our review.

Your comments and this response will be posted in the "Comments and Responses" section of the docket. We appreciate your engagement and encourage you to follow the docket as it progresses.

Sincerely,

Chris Nelson  
Chairman

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